

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SPC-03 NSC-10 PM-07 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 PA-03 USIA-15 DRC-01

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P R 171314Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3226

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USNATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 24374

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, FR, OVIP (GALLEY, ROBERT)

SUBJECT:GALLEY VISIT WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER: BIOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION ON GALLEY

REF: A. SECDEF MSG 5146, DTG 112222Z SEP 73

B. PARIS 24113

C. PARIS 9777

SECDEF FOR ASD/ISA

1. SUMMARY. MINISTER OF THE ARMED FORCES ROBERT
GALLEY HAS A REPUTATION FOR PRAGMATISM AND MODERN
MANAGEMENT. WHILE HIS GAULLIST CREDENTIALS ARE IM-
PRESSIVE, HE HAS BEEN WILLING TO BEND DOGMA TO ACHIEVE
PRACTICAL GOALS. HOWEVER, HE HAS INITIATED NO MAJOR
SHIFTS IN FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY. HE HAS STRONGLY
SUPPORTED THE FRENCH INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR FORCES, MOST
RECENTLY IN HIS ADAMANT POSITION TO CONTINUE FRENCH
NUCLEAR TESTING AS NECESSARY. HE HAS YET TO SHOW A
MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE ON GOF/U.S. MILITARY COOPERATION
THAN DID HIS GAULLIST PREDECESSOR DEFENSE MINISTER
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MICHEL DEBRE. MOREOVER, PRESIDENT POMPIDOU AND FNMIN

JOBERT ARE THE PRINCIPAL GOF POLICY MAKERS ON MATTERS OF FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICIES, LEAVING THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS TO MINISTER GALLEY. WITH TIME, THIS MAY CHANGE AND MINISTER GALLEY'S MORE PRACTICAL APPROACH TO DEFENSE MATTERS MAY PERMIT AN IMPROVEMENT IN OUR DEFENSE RELATIONS WITH FRANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTER GALLEY WAS BORN IN PARIS ON JANUARY 11, 1921. HE JOINED GENERAL DE GUALLE'S FREE FRENCH FORCES IN LONDON IN 1940 AND PARTICIPATED IN THEIR MAJOR CAMPAIGN IN EQUATORIAL AFRICA, SYRIA, EGYPT, TUNISIA. LANDING IN FRANCE IN AUGUST 1944, HE TOOK PART IN THE LIBERATION OF PARIS AND OF EASTERN FRANCE. HE WAS AWARDED THE CROIX DE GUERRE, AND HE IS A COMMANDER OF THE LEGION OF HONOR AND A COMPAGNON OF TH LIBERATION.

3. AFTER THE WAR, MINISTER GALLEY RECEIVED AN ENGINEERING DEGREE FROM THE ECOLE CENTRALE DES ARTS ET MANUFACTURES IN PARIS IN 1949 AND HE ATTENDED THE ECOLE NATIONALE SUPERIEURE DE PETROLE ET DES MOTEURS. IN 1950 HE WORKED FOR THE CHERIFIENNE PETROLEUM COMPANY, AND IN 1955 HE JOINED THE FRENCH ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, WHERE HE SUPERISED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MARCOULE NUCLEAR INSTALLATION (1955-58), AND OF THE PIERRELATTE ISOTOPE SEPARATION PLANT (1958-66). HIS SUCCESS IN THESE MAJOR TECHNICAL PROJECTS BROUGHT HIM TO THE ATTENTION OF GENERAL DE GAULLE WHO IN 1966 NAMED HIM TO OVERSEE THE MODERNIZATION AND UPGRADING OF THE FRENCH COMPUTER INDUSTRY UNDER "OPERATION CALCUL," AS DELEGATE FOR DATA PROCESSING AND COMPUTERS ATTACHED TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

4. APPOINTED TO HIS FIRST MINISTERIAL POST IN MAY 1968, IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE GOVERNMENT HEADED BY POMPIDOU, MINISTER GALLEY HAS REMAINED IN THE CABINET EVER SINCE. AFTER BARELY A MONTH AS MINISTER OF HOUSING AND EQUIPMENT, HE BECAME MINISTER DELEGATE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND ATOMIC AND SPACE AFFAIRS (1968-69), MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS (1969-72), MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION (1972-73), AND MINISTER OF THE ARMED FORCES

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(APRIL 1973 TO PRESENT). IN KEEPING WITH THE TRADITION THAT CABINET MINISTERS ALSO HOLD ELECTIVE POLITICAL OFFICE, MINISTER GALLEY WAS ELECTED AS DEPUTY (UDR) FROM THE AUBE DISTRICT IN 1968. HE BEAME MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TROYES IN THE SAME AREA IN 1972 AND WAS RE-ELECTED DEPUTY IN MARCH 1973 BY AN IMPRESSIVE MARGIN.

5. IN OCTOBER 1960, MINISTER GALLEY MARRIED THE FORMER JOANNE LECLERC DE HAUTECLOCQUE, THE DAUGHTER OF WORLD WAR II FREE FRENCH LEADER GENERAL LECLERC AND MEMBER OF A TITLED AND ARISTOCRATIC FAMILY. THIS MARRIAGE PLUS HIS WARTIME AND POSTWAR PERFORMANCE GIVE HIM GAULLIST CREDENTIALS OF A VERY SPECIAL AND HIGH ORDER. THE GALLEYS HAVE TWO SONS, AGES 10 AND 9.

6. MINISTER GALLEY UNDERSTANDS ENGLISH VERY WELL AND HAS A FAIR SPEAKING ABILITY. IT IS NOT NECESSARY THAT BRIEFINGS BE PRESENTED IN FRENCH, BUT HE WILL AT TIMES PREFER TO EXPRESS HIMSELF IN FRENCH, WITH ENGLISH INTERPRETATION. HE HAS NO DIETARY LIMITATIONS AND PREFERS SCOTCH OR BOURBON T SOCIAL OCCASIONS.

7. HE HAS ACQUIRED A REPUTATION AS AN EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATOR AND THE FOREMOST ENGINEER/MANAGERIAL EXPERT IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT. MINISTER GALLEY IS REGARDED

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AS A PRACTICAL INNOVATOR, MORE INCLINED TO A FLEXIBLE AND INNOVATIVE APPROACH THAN TO A CONSERVATIVE, TRADITION-BOUND ATTITUDE. HE HAS SHOWN THAT HE IS PREPARED TO TAKE A TOUGH STANCE EVEN WHEN CONFRONTED WITH PARTICULARLY

TOUCHY ISSUES; FOR EXAMPLE, IN HIS FIRM HANDLING OF THE PROLONGED AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS' STRIKE WHILE MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION. MOREOVER, IN MAY 1973, SHORTLY AFTER BECOMING MINISTER OF THE ARMED FORCES, HE SPOKE OUT VIGOROUSLY DURING A HIGHLY-CHARGED AND EMOTIONAL DOMESTIC DEBATE OVER THE FUTURE OF THE FRENCH ARMY, AND VOWED TO RESTORE RESPECT FOR THE ARMED FORCES.

8. U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE HAD GOOD WORKING RELATIONS WITH MINISTER GALLEY, WHO IS FRIENDLY, OUTGOING, DYNAMIC AND FORECEFUL.

9. MINISTER GALLEY DOES NOT HAVE THE INFLUENTIAL POLITICAL ROLE IN THE FORMATION AND EXECUTION OF FRENCH FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICIES WHICH HIS PREDECESSOR MICHEL DEBRE HAD. INDEED, DEBRE'S TITLE OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE WAS ABOLISHED ON HIS DEPARTURE, AND MINISTER GALLEY WAS GIVEN THE LESS PRETIGIOUS TITLE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTER OF THE ARMED FORCES. MAJOR GOF POLICIES ON DEFENSE MATTERS ARE MADE BY PRESIDENT POMPIDOU, PRIME MINISTER MESSMER, AND FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT; E.G., JOBERT'S JUNE 19 SPEECH TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FLAGGING ISSUE OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE (PARIS 17069). GALLEY'S ROLE IS PRIMARILY TO EXECUTE THESE POLICIES. WE DOUBT THAT THIS SITUATION WILL CHANGE IN THE NEAR TERM. NEVERTHELESS, MINISTER GALLEY'S PRAGMATIC APPROACH MAY MEAN THAT HE WILL BE SOMEWHAT MORE FORTHCOMING IN GOF-U.S. DEFENSE COOPERATION THAN WAS HIS PREDECESSOR. HE HAS BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING "GAULLISM CONSISTS IN REMAINING FAITHFUL TO AN IDEAL AND KNOWING HOW TO ADAPT TO NEW SITUATIONS WITHOUT EXCESSIVE REFERENCE TO THE PAST". WE EXPECT THAT HIS VISIT TO THE U.S. WILL PROVIDE A CLEARER PICTURE OF HOW FLEXIBLE HE IS LIKELY TO BE ON QUESTIONS OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE AND CLOSER DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH THE U.S., AS WELL AS BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF FUTURE FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY.

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